

REGULAR MEETING COMMON COUNCIL – September 10, 2024

The Common Council of the City of Huntington met on the 10th day of September 2024, at 7:00 p.m., for its regular meeting in accordance with all applicable requirements and notice.

INVOCATION: Pastor Zack Working, Hope Rising Church gave the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Strick called the regular meeting of the Common Council to order.

ROLL CALL: Common Council Members present: Dwight Brautigam, Charles Chapman, PJ Felton, Dave Funk, Todd Johnson, Paul Pike, and Andrew Rensberger.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Council Member Felton moved to approve Council's August 27, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Council Member Rensberger. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes signed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS: Council Member Felton reported on the Solid Waste meeting and said that no bids for recycling were received. Solid Waste will need to move forward with moving the recycling out to the facility at the old City Landfill location. Emma Working, President of That Viking Thing, reported that the group created an agenda for volunteer opportunities. No other reports were given.

PETITION OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Several citizens commented on Ordinance 9-C-24 - Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area. A letter from Mike Peare against the ordinance was received for the record and provided to Council. The Mayor read Kelly Finley's comments: she said that she is not in favor of the Ordinance. Dr. Ringenberg said that he did not think it would be family friendly at downtown events, and he was opposed to the Ordinance. Dr. Geders commented that he wished Council would check with other communities on how they handle DORA. He is not in favor of the Ordinance for DORA.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council Member Felton made a motion to approve on first reading **Ordinance 9-C-24: "An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Huntington, Indiana, Establishing A Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area"** (DORA), seconded by Council Member Pike. Director Keplinger presented the map with the boundaries for the area. Police Chief Boxell addressed Council and shared that he reached out to law enforcement officers of several communities that have DORAs and found that the consensus among them was that those communities have not experienced many problems at all with their DORAs. Eli Gearhart, owner of Wise Guys, who was also a member of the DORA Subcommittee, said he would like to see Huntington try new things and give this a chance. There are still procedures in place that need approval for the actual events that would use DORA, even if the Ordinance is approved. After much discussion, Council Member Johnson moved to table consideration of Ordinance 9-C-24 in order to receive more citizen input, seconded by Council Member Rensberger. Motion passed 6-1. Ayes: Brautigam, Chapman, Funk, Johnson, Pike, and Rensberger. Nays: Felton.

Council Member Pike made a motion to approve on **second and final reading Ordinance 13-C-24: "An Additional Appropriation" (Landfill Lease Bond)**, seconded by Council Member Rensberger. Motion passed 7-0. Ordinance signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Rensberger made a motion to approve on **first and final reading Resolution 13-R-24: SB-1/PP Huntington Sheet Metal**, seconded by Council Member Brautigam. HCUED Executive Director Mark Wickersham explained the abatement process. Mr. Drummond explained the equipment they are purchasing. Motion passed 7-0. Resolution signed.

Council Member Brautigam made a motion to approve on **first and final reading Resolution 14-R-24: SB-1/RE DKE, LLC**, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Mr. Drummond explained the addition to the current building that will house the new equipment. Motion passed 7-0. Resolution signed.

Council Member Chapman made a motion to approve on **first and final reading Resolution 15-R-24: SB-1/RE DANBAR Properties LLC**, seconded by Council Member Felton. Mr. Drummond explained that they will build a separate maintenance building on their property. Motion passed 7-0. Resolution signed.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Clerk-Treasurer McElhaney presented the August 2024 monthly financial report.

City Department Heads and the administration presented a discussion of the 2025 Budget. Questions were asked and answered. Mayor Strick suggested a few ways to decrease the budget that is being presented to be close to the maximum levy rate of 4%. At the end of the presentation, Council Members asked to see a 4% salary budget presentation, a reduction in health insurance city share line item, and moving Park Department capital to CEDIT- Parks and Trails.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Johnson moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Chapman. Motion passed 7-0.

APPROVED:

<u>Richard Strick</u> As Mayor	<u>Dwight Brautigam</u> As Member
<u>Charles Chapman</u> As Council President	<u>Dave Funk</u> As Member
<u>PJ Felton</u> As Member	<u>Todd Johnson</u> As Member
<u>Andrew Rensberger</u> As Member	<u>Paul Pike</u> As Member

Attest:

Christi A. McElhaney
As Clerk-Treasurer